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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

THOMAS GERLACH and DIRK DRÖGE

Serial No.: 10/717,543 Group Art Unit: 3721

Filed: November 21, 2003 Examiner: Nathaniel C. Chukwurah

For: STAPLING DEVICE

January 11, 2006

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22305

Sir:

Responsive to the final Office Action mailed August 29, 2005 which time for response, as extended by a Petition for a two month extension of time filed concurrently herewith expires January 29, 2006, please amend the claims in conformity with the following Listing of Claims and the indication of allowable subject matter and consider the following Remarks: